

### Claim Amendments

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for operating a printing system, the method comprising the steps of:

in a multi-printer environment having a plurality of printers, selecting for a specific print  
job-a device independent set of desired printer options for a specified print job, wherein the  
5 device independent set of desired printer options map to at least one printer specific command  
for at least one printer of the plurality of printers;

comparing the selected printer options to a definition of printer capabilities;

if the printer options are available within the defined capabilities, then converting the  
device independent printer options to printer specific commands; and

10 sending the print job to a selected printer which is responsive to the printer specific  
commands; and

signaling an error if the printer options are unavailable within the defined capabilities;  
then signaling an error.

15 2. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 further comprising the step of  
storing a plurality of definitions of printer capabilities, with at least two of the stored definitions  
being in differing command formats, wherein the command formats for at least one printer of the  
plurality of printers map to the device independent set of desired printer options.

20 3. (Original) A method according to claim 2 wherein at least three of the stored  
definitions are in differing command formats.

4. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 wherein the step of converting  
device independent printer options comprises incorporating into a printable format data file  
25 commands corresponding to the selected printer options for a selected printer.

5. (Original) A method according to claim 1 wherein the step of signaling an error comprises signaling at least a selected one of (a) a message indicating the absence of the desired option capability from printers of a designated type; (b) a message indicating the absence of the desired option capability from a printer of a type which may optionally have the capability; and  
5 (c) a message indicating that the requested option capability exceeds to limits available to a printer which has a limited capability for the requested option.

6. (Currently Amended) Apparatus comprising:

a plurality of printers, each having printer capabilities which vary from other printers in  
10 the multi-printer environment;

an information handling system communicating with said plurality of printers for selectively transmitting thereto specific print jobs, said information handling system having a processor and memory associated with said processor;

program instructions stored in said memory ~~aeessibly~~ accessible to said processor and  
15 effective when executing on said processor to:

allow an operator to select for a specific print job a device independent set of desired printer options, wherein the device independent set of desired printer options map to at least one printer specific command for at least one printer of the plurality of printers;

retain a set of definitions of printer capabilities for each of said plurality of  
20 printers;

compare the operator selected printer options with a definition of printer capabilities and then

if the printer options are available within the defined capabilities, then convert the device independent printer options to the printer specific commands; ~~and~~

send the print job to a selected printer which is responsive to the printer specific commands; and  
25

signal an error if the printer options are unavailable within the defined capabilities, ~~then signal an error.~~

7. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 6 wherein said program instructions when executing on said processor are further effective to store a plurality of definitions of printer capabilities, at least two of the stored definitions being in differing command formats, wherein the command formats for at least one printer of the plurality of  
5 printers map to the device independent set of desired printer options.

8. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 7 wherein at least three of the stored definitions are in differing command formats.

10 9. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 6 wherein said program instructions when executing on said processor are further effective to incorporate into a printable format data file commands corresponding to the selected printer options for a selected printer.

15 10. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 6 wherein said program instructions when executing on said processor are further effective to signal at least a selected one of (a) a message indicating the absence of the desired option capability from printers of a designated type; (b) a message indicating the absence of the desired option capability from a printer of a type which may optionally have the capability; and (c) a message indicating that the requested option capability exceeds to limits available to a printer which has a limited capability for the requested  
20 option.

11. (Currently Amended) A program product comprising:  
a computer readable medium; and  
program instructions stored on said medium ~~aeessibly~~ accessible to a processor and  
effective when executing on said processor to:

5 allow an operator to select for a specific print job a device independent set of  
desired printer options, wherein the device independent set of desired printer options map  
to at least one printer specific command for at least one printer of a plurality of printers;  
retain a set of definitions of printer capabilities for each of a plurality of printers;  
compare the operator selected printer options with a definition of printer  
10 capabilities and then

if the printer options are available within the defined capabilities, then  
convert the device independent printer options to printer specific commands; and  
send the print job to a selected printer which is responsive to the printer  
specific commands; and

15 signal an error if the printer options are unavailable within the defined  
capabilities, then signal an error.

12. (Currently Amended) A product according to claim 11 wherein said program  
instructions when executing on ~~[[a]]~~ the processor are further effective to store a plurality of  
20 definitions of printer capabilities, at least two of the stored definitions being in differing  
command formats wherein the command formats for at least one printer of the plurality of  
printers map to the device independent set of desired printer options.

13. (Original) A product according to claim 12 wherein at least three of the stored  
25 definitions are in differing command formats.

14. (Original) A product according to claim 11 wherein said program instructions when  
executing on said processor are further effective to incorporate into a printable format data file  
commands corresponding to the selected printer options for a selected printer.

15. (Original) A product according to claim 11 wherein said program instructions when  
executing on said processor are further effective to signal at least a selected one of (a) a message  
indicating the absence of the desired option capability from printers of a designated type; (b) a  
message indicating the absence of the desired option capability from a printer of a type which  
5 may optionally have the capability; and (c) a message indicating that the requested option  
capability exceeds to limits available to a printer which has a limited capability for the requested  
option.

16. (New) A method according to claim 1 wherein the step of selecting the device  
10 independent printer options further comprises using an operator to select a specified printer of  
the plurality of printers.

17. (New) A method according to claim 16 wherein the step of comparing the selected  
printer options further comprises comparing the definition of printer capabilities for the specified  
15 printer with the set of device independent printer options.

18. (New) Apparatus according to claim 6 wherein said program instructions when  
executing on said processor are further effective to allow the operator to select a specified printer  
of the plurality of printers for the specific print job.

19. (New) Apparatus according to claim 18 wherein said program instructions when  
executing on said processor are further effective to compare the definition of printer capabilities  
for the specified printer with the set of device independent printer options to determine if the  
device independent set of desired printer options is within the defined capabilities of the  
25 specified printer.

20. (New) A product according to claim 11 wherein said program instructions when  
executing on said processor are further effective to allow the operator to select a specified printer  
of the plurality of printers for the specific print job.